(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken or propose to take any concrete steps to check thefts and pilferage of railway materials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Taking necessary steps to check thefts on the Railawys is a continuous process and Railways have been escorting goods trains carrying valuable consignments as far as possible, organising beat patrolling and posting guards in yards and other vulnerable areas, conducting raids on receivers of stolen property on the basis of crime intelligence, deploying Dog Squads for patrolling and detection work etc.

Delicensing of Dairy Product Units

*172. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sent a proposal to the Industry Ministry to quash the decision of delicensing of dairy product units; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the above proposal has been turned down; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with Ministry of Industry is assessing the impact on the dairy industry of the delicensing of the item "milk foods and malted foods". No final view has been taken.

*173. [*Transferred to 10th September, 1991*]

Recommendations of the National Labour Commission

*174. DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Rural Labour has submitted its report;

(b) if so, when and what are its main recommendations; and

(c) what is Governments reaction thereto and whether Government propose to implement some of the recommendation in the interest of the rural labour and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The National Commission on Rural Labour has submitted its report on 31st July, 1991. Broadly, the Commission has under-lined two major goals to be achieved for rural labour namely improvement in their levels of living and ensuring their effective participation in the development process. To achieve this, further strengthening is emphasised *inter alia* in the areas of improvement of land base; broadening of agricultural growth, employment guarantee programme, infrastructure for rural industries, human resource development and basic needs, social security, organising the rural labour, effective public support etc.

2. Some of the major specific recommendations are as follows:

(i) Free and compulsory education for all children upto the age of 14 be ensured through the formal school system.

(ii) The law should provide for prohibition of child labour, in all occupations and processes.

(iii) A "National Credit Fund for Women" be set up for making available credit exclusively for poor women without any security of collateral upto a specific limit.

(iv) Fixation of a National basic minimum wage of Rs. 20 per day at December 1990 prices. There should be a provision for increase of wages automatically every six months on the basis of CPI.

(v) Self-employment programmes like IRDP should be continued by linking them to area development plans to be formulated by the elected institutions.

(vi) Highly labour displacing mechanization in agriculture like the use of combine harvesters should be banned.

(vii) There should be positive policy to assist and provide relief to migrant labour.

(viii) Credit for consumption at lower rate of interest should be extended to rural labour families under suitably designed schemes.

(ix) Institutional credit, through cooperative banks etc., be made more easily accessible to rural labour households.

Legislative measures:

(x) Right to work should be incorporated as fundamental right with certain qualifications and an employment guarantee Act be enacted.

(xi) A comprehensive Central Legislation for agricultural labourers be enacted providing for protection and welfare measures to them.

(xii) A National Authority for Bonded Labour should be set up which will function as an executive body and monitor the progress of implementation of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

(xiii) A model legislation should be enacted for protection of home-based women workers and promotion of their welfare.

(xiv) Land Tribunals at the local level should be constituted for speedy disposals of land reform cases.

Institutional mechanism for implementation:

(xv) Panchayati Raj institutions will have to be involved actively in the implementation of various recommendations made by the Commission.

(xvi) There should be a separate Department of rural labour at the Centre and in the States with an independent Directorate of Rural Labour in the States with functionaries upto block level to deal with all aspects of rural labour.

3. These recommendations are subject to the detailed examinations and consultation with the concerned Ministries and the State Governments. The Government would endeavour to implement as many of the recommendations as are found feasible and acceptable, at the earliest possible.

Deterioration of Agricultural Land due to Waterlogging and salinity

*175. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 20 per cent of the 40 million hectares of irrigated agricultural land is affected due to waterlogging and salinity; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) According to the report of NCA the area estimated to be affected in the country by water logging